

it, in various ways of restriction, though principally by the creation of a Board of War. And that though ready to have taken the field in person, after this Board was dissolved, he was again superseded by their conferring on Major Gen'l Caswell the Supreme Command of the Military forces. He declines a reelection in his first Message, but is put in nomination with Johnston, Williams, Ashe, etc., and writes a letter to the Speakers of both Houses to withdraw. A vote of thanks followed, from both branches, for his "patriotic, able, etc. administration." So that he did not resign; and left office in good credit, apparently, at least. I have not yet ascertained how Caswell held office as Gov. for three years, and from Decr. '79 to 26th. of April 1780 besides, and Nash for two months more than a year. And it may be questioned whether either was constitutional, if by act of Assembly making a request to that effect, since an annual election was required.

I will examine the files of 1782 for further Messages of Burke, and will also search for the resolution of request to John Adams for his views of a form of Government. It most probably sprung from the Congress at Halifax in April 1776. Though it will perhaps turn out to have been an informal and private request, of which no record was made on the Journal.

* * * * *

You are mistaken in supposing that I have any epistle from the President of the U. S. in acknowledgement of his doctorate. Perhaps he relies on a Trustee, who figured lately in the Raleigh Register, to make his acknowledgements.

Your letter supposes that Burke was elected Gov. in 1780. You may therefore find other letters which should be inserted before his messages which begin in June 1781.

I have felt compelled to address an article to "the Union" of 20th. of Aug. (I believe it is) on the subject of the action at Charlotte, in consequence of an extraordinary article in the National Intelligencer of a previous date.

* * * * *

I have just rec'd a magnificent edition of the "Exploring Expedition" for the use of the State Library.